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# Iran's secret arms deal was a real steal

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WASHINGTON — The Reagan Administration sold arms and military spare parts to Iran at bargain basement rates in an effort to skirt Congressional disclosure laws, the Post has learned.

According to Congressional officials

who received briefings from CIA Director William Casey and National Security Advisor John Poindexter yesterday, the administration gave Iran a huge discount on the sale of TOW anti-tank missiles and spare parts for Hawk anti-aircraft missile.

The aim was to

avoid prematurely revealing cloak and dagger U.S. dealings with moderates in Ayatollah Khomeini's regime.

Sources said Iran was sold the arms at below market costs to get around the Arms Export Control Act of 1986 which requires that all arms sales to foreign countries

over \$14 million be reported immediately to Congress.

Incoming House Speaker Jim Wright (D-Tex) told reporters that Casey said the Iranians paid \$12 million for 2008 TOW missiles and additional components for Hawk anti-aircraft missiles.

However, according to Pentagon sources, a single TOW missile usually is sold for \$10,000 — adding that Iran should have paid at least \$20 million for the TOW's alone.

A senior administration official, when asked about Congressional complaints over the discount, noted that the Arms Export Control Act

provides that the President can waive disclosure requirements in cases of national security.

Other new developments that emerged from the Congressional briefings include:

● Disclosures by Casey that Iran reneged on a key part of the deal — turning over to U.S. military intelligence sophisticated new Soviet tanks captured from Iraq.

● Revelations that several other nations including France, Austria, Great Britain, Switzerland, Portugal and Israel have been shipping arms and spare parts to Iran during the last five years over U.S. objections.

In one case Israel sent a shipment of arms to Iran that the U.S. did not "condone," and was forced by the Reagan administration to "retrieve" it in Tehran, a Republican member of the House Intelligence Committee said.

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